IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1.   (currently amended) A <u>computer-implemented</u> search processing method, comprising:

searching a predetermined document group according to a <u>first</u> search condition specified by a user to extract data of a plurality of documents <u>from a storage that stores said predetermined document group</u>;

transforming said data of said plurality of documents into ~~data~~<u>information</u> to indicate said data of said plurality of documents to said user in a first display form and to enable said user to select ~~each~~<u>a</u> display item <u>to be utilized</u> as <u>a second search condition in</u> a following processing ~~key~~, and outputting the transformed ~~data~~<u>information</u>;

extracting data of documents corresponding to said display ~~items directly or indirectly~~ <u>item</u> selected by said user; and

transforming said data of said documents corresponding to said selected display ~~items~~ <u>item</u> into ~~data~~<u>information</u> to indicate said data of said documents to said user in a second display form specified by said user and to enable said user to select ~~each~~<u>a</u> display item ~~specified based on said data of said documents~~<u>to be utilized</u> as a <u>third search condition in a</u> following processing ~~key~~, and outputting the transformed ~~data~~<u>information</u>.

2.   (currently amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein each said first and second display forms is at least either of

a form showing indications of extracted documents that have been classified by used words~~, each said indication including a predefined display matter of said document~~<u> in said extracted documents</u>,

a form showing indications of said extracted documents, and segments between the indications, ~~each said indication including a predefined display matter, and~~ each said segment representing a degree of relevancy between said extracted documents, that is calculated by used words <u>in said extracted documents</u>,

a form showing a graph representing a result obtained by classifying and aggregating said extracted documents based on used words <u>in said extracted documents</u>;

a form showing used words in said extracted documents and ~~connection lines~~ <u>segments</u> representing a degree of relevancy among said used words, and

a form showing first indications of document groups, second indications of used words<u>in said extracted documents</u>, and ~~connection lines~~ <u>segments</u> between said first ~~indication~~ <u>indications</u> and said second ~~indication~~<u>indications</u>, ~~each said first indication including a specific matter,~~ said document group being composed of <u>said</u> extracted documents associated by ~~said~~ <u>a</u> specific matter, and each <u>of</u> said ~~connection line~~ <u>segments</u> representing a degree of relevancy between said document group and said used word.

3. (currently amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first transforming comprises:

~~clustering each~~ <u>dividing</u> said <u>plurality of documents</u> ~~document~~ <u>into clusters</u> by using said data of said plurality of documents;

extracting <u>second</u> data <u>to be displayed</u> ~~concerning a display matter predefined for said first display form~~ from said data of said plurality of documents<u>, wherein a type of the extracted second data is predefined for said first display form</u>; and

generating<u>, for each said cluster, information</u> ~~data~~ to display the extracted <u>second</u> data <u>to be utilized as said second search condition in said following processing</u>~~concerning said display matter as said following processing key for each cluster~~.

4. (currently amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first transforming comprises:

calculating a degree of relevancy between said plurality of documents by using said data of said plurality of documents;

extracting<u>, for each of said plurality of documents</u> a data item <u>to be displayed</u> ~~concerning a display matter predefined for said first display form, for each said document,~~ from said data of said plurality of documents<u>, wherein a type of said data item is predefined for said first display form</u>; and

generating ~~data~~<u>information</u> to display ~~said~~<u>the</u> extracted data items <u>to be utilized as said second search condition in said following processing in</u> ~~concerning said display matter. each said data item being extracted for each said document and being~~ said following processing ~~key~~,

and a segment that connects between said data items and represents the calculated degree of relevancy between said documents corresponding to said data items.

5. (currently amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first transforming comprises:

~~classifying~~ <u>dividing</u> said plurality of documents <u>into classes</u> based on used words included in said data of said plurality of documents, and counting a number of documents in each <u>said</u> class based on a specific matter predefined for said first display form; and

~~generate data~~ <u>generating information</u> to display the counting result.

6. (currently amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first transforming comprises:

calculating a degree of relevancy between used words included in said data of said plurality of documents; and

generating ~~data~~ <u>information</u> to display said used words <u>to be utilized</u> as said <u>second search condition in said</u> following processing ~~keys~~, and a segment that connects between said used words and represents the calculated degree of relevancy between said used words.

7. (currently amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first transforming comprises:

relating said plurality of documents into document groups based on a specific matter predefined for said first display form;

calculating a degree of relevancy between said document group and ~~each~~ <u>a</u> used word included in said data of said plurality of documents; and

generating ~~data~~ <u>information</u> to display said document ~~group as said following processing key, groups__ by <u>said</u> data of said specific matter, and the calculated degree of relevancy between said document group and said used word~~ by a segment connecting between said document group and said used word<u>, wherein said document group and said used word are to be utilized as said second search condition in said following processing</u>.

8. (currently amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second transforming comprises:

~~clustering each~~ dividing said documents corresponding to said selected display item into clusters ~~document~~ by using said data of said documents corresponding to said selected display item ~~specified from said selected display items~~;

extracting third data to be displayed ~~concerning a display matter predefined for said second display form~~ from said data of ~~the specified~~ said documents corresponding to said selected display item, wherein a type of the extracted third data is predefined for said second display form; and

generating, for each said cluster, ~~data~~ information to display the extracted third data to be utilized as said third search condition in said following processing ~~concerning said display matter as said following processing key for each cluster~~.

9.   (currently amended) The computer-implemented search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second transforming comprises:

calculating a degree of relevancy between said documents corresponding to said selected display item by using said data of said documents corresponding to said selected display item ~~specified from said selected display items~~;

extracting, for each said documents corresponding to said selected display item, a data item to be displayed ~~concerning a display matter predefined for said second display form, for each said specified document,~~ from said data of ~~the specified~~ said documents corresponding to said selected display item; and

generating ~~data~~ information to display ~~said~~ the extracted data items ~~concerning said display matter, each said data item being extracted for each said specified document and being~~ to be utilized as said third search condition in said following processing ~~key~~, and a segment that connects between said data items and represents the calculated degree of relevancy between said ~~specified~~ documents corresponding to said selected display item.

10.   (currently amended) The computer-implemented search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second transforming comprises:

~~classifying~~ dividing said documents ~~specified from said selected display items~~ corresponding to said selected display item into classes based on used words included in said data of ~~the specified~~ said documents corresponding to said selected display item, and counting a number of documents in each said class based on a specific matter predefined for said second display form; and

~~generate data~~ generating information to display the counting result.

11.   (currently amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second transforming comprises:

calculating a degree of relevancy between used words included in said data of said ~~documents~~ <u>documents corresponding to said selected display item</u>~~specified from the selected display items~~; and

generating ~~data~~ <u>information</u> to display said used words <u>to be utilized</u> as said <u>third search condition of said</u> following processing ~~keys~~, and a segment that connects between said used words and represents the calculated degree of relevancy between said used words.

12.   (currently amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second transforming comprises:

categorizing said documents<u> corresponding to said selected display item</u> ~~specified from the selected display items~~ into document groups based on a specific matter predefined for said ~~first~~ <u>second</u> display form;

calculating a degree of relevancy between said document group and ~~each~~ <u>a</u> used word included in said data of ~~the specified~~ <u>said</u> documents <u>corresponding to said selected display item</u>; and

genera.ting ~~data~~ <u>information</u> to display said document ~~group as said following processing key,~~ <u>groups</u> by <u>said</u> data of said specific matter, and the calculated degree of relevancy between said document group and said used word~~,~~ by a segment connecting between said document group and said used word<u>, said document group and said work to be utilized as said third search condition in said following processing</u>.

13.   (currently amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein <u>a document included in</u> said <u>predetermined</u> document <u>group</u> is a patent document, and said display item is either of bibliographic information of said patent document and a used word in said patent document.

14.   (currently amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least either of said first and second transformings comprises specifying a display program corresponding to a display form, and generating ~~data~~ <u>information</u> for said display program.

15.   (currently amended) The ~~computer-implemented~~ search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least either of said first and second display forms is an arbitrary combination of predefined display forms.

16.   (currently amended) A ~~computer readable medium storing instructions to control a processor to perform a method comprising~~program embodied on a medium, for causing a computer to execute a search processing, said program comprising:

searching a predetermined document group according to a ~~first~~ search condition specified by a user to extract data of a plurality of documents ~~from a storage that stores said predetermined document group~~;

transforming said data of said plurality of documents into ~~data~~ information to indicate said data of said plurality of documents to said user in a first display form and to enable said user to select ~~each~~ a display item ~~to be utilized as second search condition in~~ as a following processing ~~key~~, and outputting the transformed ~~data~~information;

extracting data of documents corresponding to said display ~~items directly or indirectly~~ item selected by said user; and

transforming said data of said documents corresponding to said selected display ~~items into data~~ item into information to indicate said data of said documents to said user in a second display form specified by said user and to enable said user to select ~~each~~ a display item ~~specified based on said data of said documents as~~ to be utilized as a third search condition in a following processing ~~key~~, and outputting the transformed ~~data~~information.

17.   (currently amended) The ~~computer readable medium~~ program as set forth in claim 16, wherein each said first and second display forms is at least either of

a form showing indications of extracted documents that have been classified by used words~~, each said indication including a predefined display matter of said document~~ in said extracted documents,

a form showing indications of said extracted documents, and segments between the indications, ~~each said indication including a predefined display matter, and~~ each said segment representing a degree of relevancy between said extracted documents, that is calculated by used words in said extracted documents,

a form showing a graph representing a result obtained by classifying and aggregating said extracted documents based on used words in said extracted documents;

a form showing used words in said extracted documents and ~~connection lines~~ segments representing a degree of relevancy among said used words, and

a form showing first indications of document groups, second indications of used words, in said extracted documents and ~~connection lines~~ segments between said first ~~indication~~ indications and said second ~~indication, each said first indication including a specific matter,~~ indications said document group being composed of said extracted documents associated by ~~said~~ a specific matter, and each of said ~~connection line~~ segments representing a degree of relevancy between said document group and said used word.

18.   (currently amended) A search processing apparatus, comprising:

a search unit ~~to search~~ that searches a predetermined document group according to a first search condition specified by a user to extract data of a plurality of documents;

a first transformer ~~to transform~~ that transforms said data of said plurality of documents into ~~data~~ information to indicate said data of said plurality of documents to said user in a first display form and to enable said user to select ~~each~~ a display item ~~as~~ to be utilized as a second search condition a following processing ~~key,~~ and outputting the transformed ~~data~~ information;

an extractor ~~to extract~~ that extracts data of documents corresponding to said display ~~items directly or indirectly~~ item selected by said user; and

a second transformer ~~to transform~~ that transforms said data of said documents corresponding to said selected display ~~items~~ item into ~~data~~ information to indicate said data of said documents to said user in a second display form specified by said user and to enable said user to select ~~each~~ a display item ~~specified based on said data of said documents as~~ to be utilized as a third search condition in a following processing ~~key,~~ and outputting the transformed ~~data~~ information.

19.   (currently amended) The computer-implemented search processing apparatus as set forth in claim 17, wherein each said first and second display forms is at least either of

a form showing indications of extracted documents that have been classified by used words, ~~each said indication including a predefined display matter of said document~~ in said extracted documents,

a form showing indications of said extracted documents, and segments between the indications, ~~each said indication including a predefined display matter, and~~ each said segment representing a degree of relevancy between said extracted documents, that is calculated by used words in said extracted documents,

a form showing a graph representing a result obtained by classifying and aggregating said extracted documents based on used words in said extracted documents;

a form showing used words in said extracted documents and ~~connection lines~~ segments representing a degree of relevancy among said used words, and

a form showing first indications of document groups, second indications of used words, in said extracted documents, and ~~connection lines~~ segments between said first ~~indication indications~~ and said second ~~indication, each said first indication including a specific matter~~ indications, said document group being composed of said extracted documents associated by ~~said~~ a specific matter, and each of said ~~connection line~~ segments representing a degree of relevancy between said document group and said used word.